THE BLACK PROPHET

By GUY FITCH PHELPS

By Standard Pub. Co., Cinetenati, Ohio.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters "The Black Prophet" the author prement. The buy, an bleatier, and post with deep spiritual aspirations, early determines to become a priest in order that he may issue the two many the sent the weight of the world wee. After leaving college, for two years he ministers in a country lower, after which he is premoted to the position of associate to Father Dahro. The Black Prophet' of the story, who is head priest at the Church of St. Andrews, a weathly and powerful congregation, in a prosperous Western city. Dahro, another principal character in the motiance is a worshipper of the god of this world, and avaries, running, sensualisms, gross seifathness and inordinate hove for wine, are distinguishing characteristics of his nature. The heroine of the story is Jores Mothy, the heautiful stepdampiter of hanker Malby the possesses millions of dollars, and has political aspirations which Father Dahro is carefully nourishing.

leal aspirations which Father Dahro is carefully nourishing.

At B. Andrews Mark Gordon, the clean-scaled, wholesome idealist meets with a series of rude shocks in his intercourse with his gross, worldly minded superior. Father Dahro, Here he finds how different is the clergy of his ideals, from the malerialistic manusom worship, came hoving prisathood with whom he comes in contact in the city.

By a series of strange exhibitories, such as frequently mark our lives, even in the grossic age. Mark Gordon is brought into chose association with Joyce Melby. In the first instance he saven her live in a rusnessay, lates, in the confessional and in the services the two are brought together in such a way that in spite of the determined effort on the part of each, pure moreal love, such as should unite two high-minded young nearts, fames in each breast, only to be sternly repressed. The young priest by he sternly repressed. The young priest is horrified at the thoughts which come unhidden to confront his wows, with Joyce drawn to the young priest by an imperial spell, finds it all but impossible to crush the normal love puters, and his superior, knowing that he would fall bair to a large for the crufty priest, Dahre, and his superior, knowing that he would fall bair to a large fortune on the

Her outlook is indeed tragic, for the crafty priest, Duhre, and his superior, knowing that he would full heir to a large fortune on the death of her invalid mother, had determined that she shall enter the convent and this enable the cherch to seize the wealth that utingwise would come to her. Moreover, her beauty is also a factor in impelling the sancual Dahre to insist upon her entering the creat prison-like convent which stands herk of St. Andrew's church. The mother quickly falls a prey to the wiles of the priest, and together with the latter finally breaks down the girl's organition. The grim and tragic onwent doors are ready to open for the heautiful young betreen.

convent doors are ready to open for the beautiful young helrens.

The excessive wine drinking of the priests and the dark hints of Dahro as to the pleasures of the feat that priests were wont to indulge in, are not the only revelations that appail the young priest. He is summoned to a conference where priests and Knights of Columbus discuss the politics of the state, plan the emissiculation of the public schools and the advance of Romanism in the restination of her ambitious dream to dominate the state.

the state.

Here is given one of the most masterly
and vivid pictures of the uncessing workings
of Bome in our midst, that is to be found in
literature, the results of which are everywhere in evidence in our present day public

CHAPTER VIII What the Moonlight Saw

glory to street and lawn.

gation of St. Andrew's with a feeling of relief. For, though he continued to hunger for her deep in the core of him, her presence only increased the unrest which mastered him whenever she was sear. Not wishing to introduce a subject which would at once call forth a relief from the core of the presence of the presence of the core of the presence tions, and came to the conclusion that she lieving this he tried to think of her as one dead; to crush his feelings for her as something impossible to his life and stroy that heavenly quality! very displeasing to God. He walked in the of martyrs, and the gloom of the cloister was upon him, and in those shadows fair women and young had walked, as well as men, in complete separntion from all they had loved known. Could be not consent that this woman should so devote herself! What desperate selfishness moved him to regret her plans? For his own help he plunged into the "Lives of the Saints," bracing his soul with the history of their sacrifices and sufferings; and he told himself that, because he was of iron will and great zeal, he could do the same. At such times be put the thought of the girl from him ,and closed the door of his heart against her, only to find afterwards that she had returned and was either of them must be lost, let it be he walking the halls of his soul, a white fact which he could not deny.

There are things which are so lawfully a part of nature that when they bishop, who had authority to pardon an fighting, she lay there with a little sigh of content, and the love which lived in of content, and the love which lived in scars; surgery in the soul does the same. Mark was in the habit of rising from prayer, after long struggles on his knees, find that neither the saints nor the

Mother of God had helped him. The reaction from these periods was always a red sweep of longing to see the These experiences left him baffled

reward would be the greater because of his blessing, and he gave it, though he he went on. the struggle. Thus he walked his dun-could have cried out from pain. geon self-deceived, the darkness about From the damp shadows of his cypress at ease. he could watch them go by, that was

make his confession to God with soreness panted conceitedly along the river. of beart.

It was after a night of such surest with that he entered the church one morning to him. The wind in the half-stripped to find Joyce Melby sented in her old maples recalled the stendy gales which place, her clear beauty heightened by the held high revol on the hills about his prisms in the rose windows. He had home. The bubble of frost-chocked prisms in the rose windows. He had home. fessions feeling a sense of resignation, willows and faded grass came back, only to have the false calm shattered by augmenting his unsettled state of mind. the first glimpse of the giri. Like a It is easier to reason into difficult at mountain flood it all came back, the hun- untions than out of them. If Mark himself swept from the nock where tears and relations—had such been possiblehim for a time.

head and the wafer on her lips. How bright was her hair, and how subdued and-gentle her manner. Baffled by the strength of his love, which had entered his life unbidden, and which grow like the mingling of strenms, Mark shrank from her as the object of his unrest, because he desired so much to hold her in his mood just then seemed like an his life forever, and yet he knew that such was an impossibility.

went by a side siste to the confessional. self and his faith, lie had opened his Several had come to make confessions, eyes to find them beside him. and he was compelled to give them the opportunity. He grew weary of these mottled histories of wrong-doing. He hoped Jayee Melby would not come, but of the most binding nature; but new the in this he was disuppointed, for while he face of a woman was snapping their was naming a penance for a flagrant authority in his soul. And yet he knew young man, she came to the other window that not for Joyce Melby or any other and knelt in quiet prayer.

troublesome thought of the questions will. He knew that his vows would precame back to him with a cheking sensa- vail in the cud. No, he would not try tion. It was like a hand at his throat, to keep her from entering the numbery, He hoped she had done nothing which nor would be leave the priesthood if she would be construed as sin, and he deter- remained where she was. Yet inwardly mined once more to use his own judg- -and that was what troubled him most ment in the matter. For if there were no -there was questioning, and at times resins to . confessed, then absolution bellion. would not be necessary. This thought gave him a momentary relief, but the lessly from street to street. He moved comfort was of the briefest duration, without an objective point, not caring for he recalled that the questions of the where he might go. He was conscious confessional were put into the mouth of that the mountains were on his left, and the priest to aid the penitent in searching out the secret things of the heart. constantly closer to their base. He was He could not be a faithful priest and suddenly impressed by something familnot ask them, for to die with unconfessed | ar in his surroundings, and looked up to sin on the conscience was to be lost. And find himself before the gate of Joyce if one entering his confessional were to Melby's home. suffer such a fate, her blood would be re-quired at his hands. The very nature of leaving the walk, passed under the great THE summer passed, shod with to the deepest and most private recesses of leaves, still baffled the moonlight, fillgolden sandals. The early au- of the soul. He must put aside his ing the spaces under them with a half-tumn skies were a gray crumble, scruples and be faithful. Did not the gloom. For a time he moved about over across the hills, and a threnody priests in the confessional to remove the of an open place, where he stood looking of old sorrow awoke in the pines. The natural modesty of female penitents by up at the house, set in its fellowship of commanderie of melancholy broaded on the very questions which he shrank from art, old colonial style, and tall maples. wood and stream, and the tall maples asking! Yet, how could be lead this woabout St. Andrew's gave up their russet man, who had kindled within him the to have personality which responded to ory to street and lawn.

Joyce Melby returned from New York, mire! How could be talk to her of rooms was the woman be loved, and the where she had been for two months, visit things as sacredly and properly private place seemed to breathe forth her soul. ing friends. She had made it a farewell to herself as the most personal and pure He wondered if she were in that room trip, because she planned to enter the states of life's holiest things! Would where the light gleamed under a slightly numbery in the early fall. This had filled God be displeased with him for refusing raised blind. His interest was romantic

rebuke from Dahro, he asked no query that which would bring the crimson of silence, each swept with intense emotion. had entered the convent already. Be- the author of the modesty which was the Above them the wind was a voice, pitiful

Mark felt that his brain was on fire, so great was his agitation. It was the old struggle over again, and in the end be settled it as he did before; he would not ask the questions. To do so would take from his own heart something which he could never bring back, and it would be impossible to feel for her the ennobling sentiments which stirred his nature To talk to her of things which now. were of the most private character; to compel her to confess or deny things which would fill her mind with corrupting thoughts, and degrade her nature by foreing upon her a most horrible pollution, all against her wishes and her chaste character-he would not do, let his condemnation be what it might.

Fortunately, there was a saving feature in the case, and he turned to it with great relief—he could confess to the teachings.

Low and clear her voice broke the still- in a delicious sea. ess of the confessional still, except for the wild beating of his heart. "Bless me, Father, for I have

sinned.

In a few words he directed her to woman he loved, to hear her speak, and confess only that which came to her own to feel the strange power of her person- mind, and his admiration for her grew as he noted how untainted she had kept and full of unrest. One thing seemed herself. There was something about an indubitable fact to him: God was neglect of duty, and laxity in service, but pleased with his vows as a priest, and mostly she desired a proper state in demanded that he keep them, whatever which to enter the numbery, which she the sacrifice might be. But just here the mystery began. Why St Andrew's would be vacant, and she was not aid given which would make it would kneel at the altars no more. She possible for him to forget? Was not had struggled, but that was past. Now the thought a sin! In his reasoning on the sacrol retreats of the abbey would the matter he fell naturally into the position of all who endeavor to establish life to holy meditation and prayer. In themselves in unnatural positions—the preparing for her devotement she desired

The rest of the day he wandered about him lit only by one feeble taper. He in a maze of wretchedness. Condemna light in them. was like a man who inhabited an island, tion for his disobedience lay heavy upon alone in mid-ocean vastness, glimpsing him, yet self-respect had made it im-

for life's fairest ports—bridegroom and and spent a long time on his knoss, our consent to work their will. To deny time to fighting the people's bettle in probably do more than any other cambride, laughter, song and bounding Evening came again, cool and delightful, the things of our hearts would be like a the cause of fundamental democracy, paign document to defeat politico-

As the conflagrations died out of the is farewell-do you not feel the same?" sunset, and the twilight deepened into

slowly away along the leaf-sown street. hair. A faint amethyst tint lingered on the

A feeling of homesickness for the

great, clean land of his boyhood came come from endless pater nosters and con- streams and the melancholy of sear ger and the wish for her; and he felt could have thoroughly tested all features and pain and surrender had anchored of his difficulties, he could have arrived at something more definite regarding his With hands which trembled in spite of proper course of action. But this he ould not do, and the result was that he him, he placed the candles above her found himself swamped in troubles

As he turned into a quiet street the city lights flashed on, and the great area began to sputter at the crossings. late laborer shuffed past, eying him primary, and all good citizens re-critically. The intrusion of any one on joice in their splendid triumph. offense, for his thoughts and feelings were anarchy. He had lost his center of Unannounced SUPEDOES. Hurrying through the early mass, he thrown him into false relations with himprayed, they waited till he ceased and then mocked him for failure. From the face of woman he had turned by your person would be resource them and cease For a moment he looked at her, not to be a priest. This fact was always wishing to disturb her, while the old, hidden away in the sure things of his

In his preoccupation he walked aim-

the confessional demanded that he probe trees on the lawn, which, though denuded

shame to cheek and brow! If God was in the mellow light she looked spirit pale. America. It would have prevented safeguards of popular freedom and that chief charm of a woman, would be in and low. He could see the deep heaving spire an institution which operated to de- of her breast and knew that she was un-

creature materialized from mist. Mark felt that he was indeed a worshiper at the shrine of mystery and dreams. priest nor a churchman, but a man, clean impulse and free of vows, in the was the one fact worth while. sensible of a wild joy that he had not asked her the questions of the confessional, for they would have made this

'Joyce?' he whispered. "Yes, yes, I know!" she answered in low, vibrant voice.

With a masterful movement he took their hearts surged up and drowned them

'Don't-don't misunderstand me!' he pleaded, recalling himself.

He felt her tremble in his arms. "Just this moment, this one; let it be ours, naturally and as though nothing separated us; let us drain its golden cup to the last drop. Let us forget that an impassable gulf separates us, and for this time—this bright minute—let us be the congressman in the patriotic millions have been waiting for patriotic millions have been waiting for clearly shows the vicious nature of the as God has made all things about us, a pamphlet in which Judge Nations free to unite our hearts." "Yes," she answered faintly.

sweep of their feelings bore them irred a sleeping army. sistibly into a new and delicious world, Before noticing the contents, we wish tional amendment against sectarian apwhere in one exquisite moment the ful- to say a word about the author and his propriations. The closing discussion fillment of every strangled longing was qualifications for preparing the work in theirs.

"You read my soul, Joyce I know,"

yours and mine; after that, all shall conscientious. As director of the United

hollows above the city the mysterious ask it; I did not dream of it. But you of political Romanism, believing that the dusk gathered rostfully; then came the are shut from me by my vows, and will solid vote of Rome would be a passport clasping moscilight, stenciled and tender. Soon be hidden from me by clother walls. he rose against the intangible fetters. Here and there the large stars appeared, and that which was and is a deathless which bound him with relentless opposi- and a low wind took up some forgotten hunger shall be a consuming first. But would hide in his room, there to pros-trate himself before the crucifx, and city and a tag, towing an ocean liner, tien? For I wear the garb of a pricet. Only in spirit can I be with you. But I shall go to you in the great loneliness which will consions me, and you will know that I am near. But this is mad-ness! I am as one who has lost his way. See, I put you from me, though the touch of you is like wine-like red wine

in the blood? He pushed her gently from him, then stood a moment looking at her in silence. Reaching out, he dree her back to him found her lips with he in a long caress-

(To be continued next week)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MANGLE FLORIDA CITIZEN

(Continued from Page 1)

declaration by rolling up a monu-A mental majority against him in the joice in their splended triumph.

Taft Addresses Papal University

Taft, former president of the man church through their championship mencement address at Roman Catholic Georgetown University, Wash- Bryan, it will be remembered, made himington, D. C. The Roman politicat self the reflector of the Knights of Co fort to resurrect Mr. Taft ever since the primary elections in the state of the American people four years are buried him under the most stupen- for the maintenance of our democratic Rome seldom miss an opportunity cating measures which are in direct op to advertise Mr. Taft and commend position to the fundamental guarantees whatever he says or does. Last winter when a vacancy oc- From an examination of the Roman

curred in the Supreme Court of the Catholic chairmen, Judge Nations passes United States, a bunch of corpora- to a consideration of Rome in our su in the great Roman Catholic cities of last resort. Following this chapter Mr. Taft. Since the resignation of of the pamphlet, the assaults on freedom of press. Under this division Judge Nations prints in their entirety the Seigel, the effort to place Taft on the the fundamental bulwarks of free democ bench.

In his speech at Geogretown he of an international alliance to supgan of the Taft brand of politicians.

Somewhere in its spacious despotic nations would be in the numerical ascendency and would icy. A mighty weapon would thus

Mexico, Central America and South Remanism more nakedly exposed than in our expulsion of the Franco-Ausscientific advancement and enlighten-trian empire from Mexico fifty ment that waits on liberty. Passing conscious that her hands were clasped years ago. It would have perpetu- from this discussion we have important

voice of liberty and support the with fine judicial spirit and yet with The big blood in him surged hand of oppression in every part of that robust temper which marks the enmadly, and the cry of his nature became the world. The pope formed such dominant. Just now he was neither a an engine of oppression among European tyrants a hundred years once of the woman he loved. This ago to crush patriots then strug- iniquitious measures which Rome suc He was gling for civil liberty on this hem- ceeded in pushing brough the House of that despotic coalition the "holy al- tions, in order to warm our patriotic crafted moment impossible. Unafraid, he liance." Instead of the Taft policy sent a telegram to THE MENACE stating stepped to her side. She did not draw of becoming a charter member of the evil features, in the nature of the back, but stood waiting with parted lips. that conspiracy against human lib- case he could not explain in a dispatch erty, President Monroe warned it to keep out of the New World.



"ROME IN CONGRESS" by Gilbert O, refer 10c. The Nations, paper, pp. 30, price 10c. T Menace Publishing Co., Inc., Aurora, Mo. draws aside the curtains and reveals Rome as she is busily engaged in the The touch of her thrilled him with a nation's capitel. It is a startling revela-

"This one moment-hour-shall be minded Christian gentleman, careful and winter's session.

coming and going of pricets, and walked tears dropped from his lashes upon her veritable thorn in the side of Rome, and this passphlet may well prove the un-"Dearest of all the earth, farewall!" doing of some of those who have been cried passionately. "In one bout to betraying the high interests of fundadistant mountains for a time, and then he crief passionaisty; "In one bolt in betraying the high interests of funda-faded into trembling mist. In the folded great a love has come to me. I did not mental democracy and falling at the feet

Here in simple, direct and forceful bound him with relentless opposi- and a low wind took up some forgotten hunger shall be a consuming fire. But English, is told the shameful story of After these periods of storm he sorrow in the trees. Pulsebeats of sound how shall I purge my and of this weakthe gradual enclarement of our once splendid free republic to organised olitico-recleviastical Remanism.

Here is told the shameful story of the gradual undermining of the basic principles of our noble, liberal democracy through the conscless sapping and mining of political Romanism in her determined attempt to substitute the mon-archial papal, for our free progressive Here we see the rapid on descontracy. trenchment of Rome in every department. of government and in the powerful congressional committees, as well as in all bordinate stations in executive, judicial and legislative departments.

The pamphlet opens with a preliminary survey showing Rome's grip on our government, or how the papal forces are entrenched and active in the nation's capitol. Next comes a startling presentation of the committees and their Roman Catholic chairmen in the senate and house Included in this list are a few names of men who are not members of the Roman Catholic church, but who like Senator Bryan of Florida who has been overwhelmingly repudiated by the electorate of his state, have proved themselves quite as acceptable, if not more so than those On June 13, William Howard who are directly affilliated with the Ro United States, delivered the com- of papal measures and papal ideals which organization has persisted in the ef- lumbus wishes in desiring to exclude in the American people four years ago longed to organizations that merely stand dons avalanche of votes ever cast principles, but he had no word of disagainst a president of the United paragement for the pope's oath-bound, States. Papal political control of anti-American Knights of Columbus and other papal organizations that are advoof our constitution.

preme court, showing how effectively she tion lawyers who live and practice has become entrenched in this tribunal petitioned the president to appoint comes one of the most vital discussions ey in the same court, the papal Fitzgerald and Gallivan Bills, measures machine may be expected to renew which are the most vicious assaults on racy that have been attempted in recent years, and which are startlingly in keeping with the Alien and Sedition Laws, argued that, in order to promote the passage and attempted enforcement the peace of the world, this country of which, hurled from power and virtushould become a charter member ally destroyed the then dominant political power in the young republic. author shows how the Roman Catholics The crisp winds came dancing theologians teach that it was the duty of the grass, finally stopping at the edge press unruly nations. That fdes, have frankly admitted that their aim in which must have originated in the trying to pass these measures that would vatican, has become a favorite alo- go far to substitute the papal for the democratic provisions of our contitutional government, was the suppression In any such tribunal papal and of THE MENACE and other patriotic particles pers. The further fact is shown that this legislation would destroy publications therefore shape and direct its pol- without trial by judge and jury. Here we see how the Roman Catholic political machine, in the year 1916, in our demobe placed in the hands of the pope eratic republic is striving to do precisely each separation with much sorrow, be to mak her things which would at once -sacred. He fancied that his own be and other tyrants for the control what the pope of Rome and the Jesuits

> these deadly assaults on the greatest over her heart. In the crumbling haze ated the Weiler brutality and butchwhich meshed her she appeared like a ery in Cuba. Such a tribunal would stifle the all these subjects are luminously treated lightened champion of free institutions

> > One of the most important chapters with the Juvenile Court Bill, deals which is unquestionably one of the most sphere. The holy father called Representatives this year. Judge Namillions of the danger of this measure, how the voluminous sections masking Rome nefarious designs, would become angines of oppression, injustice and papal power. These, however, were subsequently luminously set forth by Judge Nations. Sciring upon the telegram, however, the Roman Catholic congressman, Ben Johnson, of Kentucky, made a most unjustifiable and utterly misleading speech in congress which later was scattered broadcast throughout the land in an attempt to injure THE MENACE discredit Judge Nations. In this division of the pamphlet the author considers the Juvenile Court Bill at length and not only puts the congressman in the clearly shows the vicious nature of the measure.

One of the most important discussions deals with the patriotic measures that swift, maddening joy. In the delirium tion that should arouse all true Ameri. have been introduced into congress, such of it be would hold her forever. The cans as a trumpet's blast might arouse as the Burnett Immigration Bill, and deals with how to vote in congress, and hand. Judge Nations, who is vice- here Judge Nations gives the names of president of the Free Press De- the United States senators and congressfense League is an able lawyer men who voted against the illiteracy She did not reply, save that she lifted whose judicial experience and extensive test of the Burnett Bill in 1914, and her eyes to his with an understanding legal practice has trained him to weigh, the names of the representatives who facts and sift evidence. He is a high- voted wrong on this bill during last

We have no hesitation in saying that from his wave-fenced shore the distant possible for him to do anything else sails of passing ships, none of which he dared to signal. Others could embark morning he was early at prayer, been taken by forces which do not ask six months in Washington, devoting his possible for him to do anything else. In spite States Capitol Bureau of the Free Press if the pamphlet could be circulated by be as though it had not been. In spite States Capitol Bureau of the Free Press if the pamphlet could be circulated by be as though it had not been. In spite be as though it had not been the miracle has happened. We have been taken by forces which do not ask six months in Washington, devoting his probably do more than any other cam--but these were not for him. but it found him still troubled and ill disbelief in God. I love you! Ah! how against the allied forces of Roman ecclesiastical Romanism in its well or much, how much! Now tell me—for this Catholicism. ganized and aggressive campaign to It would be difficult to over-estimate make America dominantly Roman Cath-"I do," she replied, her voice break- the service to the cause of free institu- olic, by substituting the monarchial and At times he grew restless and imdenser gloom, Mark passed through the ing.

tions that this high-minded and scholar bureaucratic papal system for that of patient in the struggle. Again, he felt private gate in the wall, made for the He held her in a long embrace, while ly patriot has rendered. He has been a free and fundamental democracy.



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